

# Summit: Soviet Take

By JOHN FITTMAN

MOSCOW — Optimism and the hope that reason will triumph over those preaching distrust and antagonism in U. S.-Soviet relations is the dominant mood here on the eve of Premier Khrushchev's departure for the Vienna meeting with President Kennedy.

"I think I shall express the general opinion," declared N. G. Tikhonov, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee, in an article in *Pravda*, "if I say that Soviet peace supporters, and this means the entire Soviet people, welcome this excellent step towards the peaceful settlement of outstanding international questions."

"Millions of people," declared *The Literary Gazette*, "are hoping for a healthier atmosphere, relaxation of international tension, and the removal of mutual distrust."

## HOPEFUL SIGNS

The Soviet press in its daily reports of foreign comment on the Khrushchev-Kennedy meeting has followed its usual overt policy of accentuating the positive. Moreover, mention or reminder of the U-2 incident which wrecked the Paris summit conference little more than one year ago has been conspicuously absent.

Some foreign newsmen accredited here see significance in the fact that Premier Khrushchev, accompanied by Minister of Culture Ekaterina Furtseva and Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov, shared a box at the American "Ice-capades," performance on May 23 with U. S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson and Mrs. Thompson. It is recalled that at the time of the U-2 affair, Khrushchev publicly expressed confidence in Thompson and disassociated him from U. S. circles typified by Allen Dulles of the CIA.

## MORE ABUNDANCE

But many substantial causes for Soviet optimism are reflected in current developments here. The country's powerful new consumer goods industries are pouring out increasing quantities of qualitatively better and more varied articles.



ON THE DIPLOMATIC cocktail circuit: Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko (left) and U. S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk seemed to be jiving at a party thrown by the Italian delegation to the Geneva conference on Laos.

that only a small but powerful minority is preventing such normal relations. American tourists who have already begun flocking in for the vacation season are almost invariably asked what possible harm could come to ordinary American workers and farmers from disarmament and conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

Evidence accumulates from week to week and is prominently featured in papers all over the USSR that friendly U. S.-Soviet relations are both feasible and mutually advantageous, and would develop naturally but for the activities of small circles with an interest in armaments and war.

## INFORMAL TALKS

Even now in the Crimea a group of Americans are discussing with their Soviet counterparts the ways and means of jointly and separately improving the international situation. The group is headed by Norman Cousins, editor of *The Saturday Review of Literature*, and chairman of HANEI. It includes Miss Marian Anderson, contralto; Prof. Philip Mosley of Columbia University; William Benton, U. S. editor of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*; Joseph E. Johnson, president of the Carnegie Peace Foundation; and Gabriel Hodre, president of the World Council of Churches.

Simultaneously, Soviet participation is taking place in the fight against cancer. Prof. Olai Blokblom, cancer expert who is president of the Academy of Medical Sciences, a recent press conference repeatedly quoted the "fruitful" results of the "decisive" cooperation between the two countries.

# DOLLARS AND SEN

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By VIC

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